

REMARKS

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-26 were pending in this application when last examined.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 18, 19, 22 and 23 were examined on the merits and stand rejected.

Claims 3-5, 10-17, 20, 21 and 24 were objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 25 and 26 have been indicated as allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 18, 19, 22 and 23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

No new matter has been added.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3-5, 10-17, 20, 21 and 24 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicates the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

These claims have been rewritten in independent form without acquiescence to the correctness of the Examiner's position. Thus, this objection is overcome and these claims are allowable.

On pages 2-3, claims 1, 2, 6-9, 18, 19, 22 and 23 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pei et al. for reasons set forth in the previous Office Action. These claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto and therefore this rejection is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroo IWATA et al.

/William R.

By Schmidt, II/

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